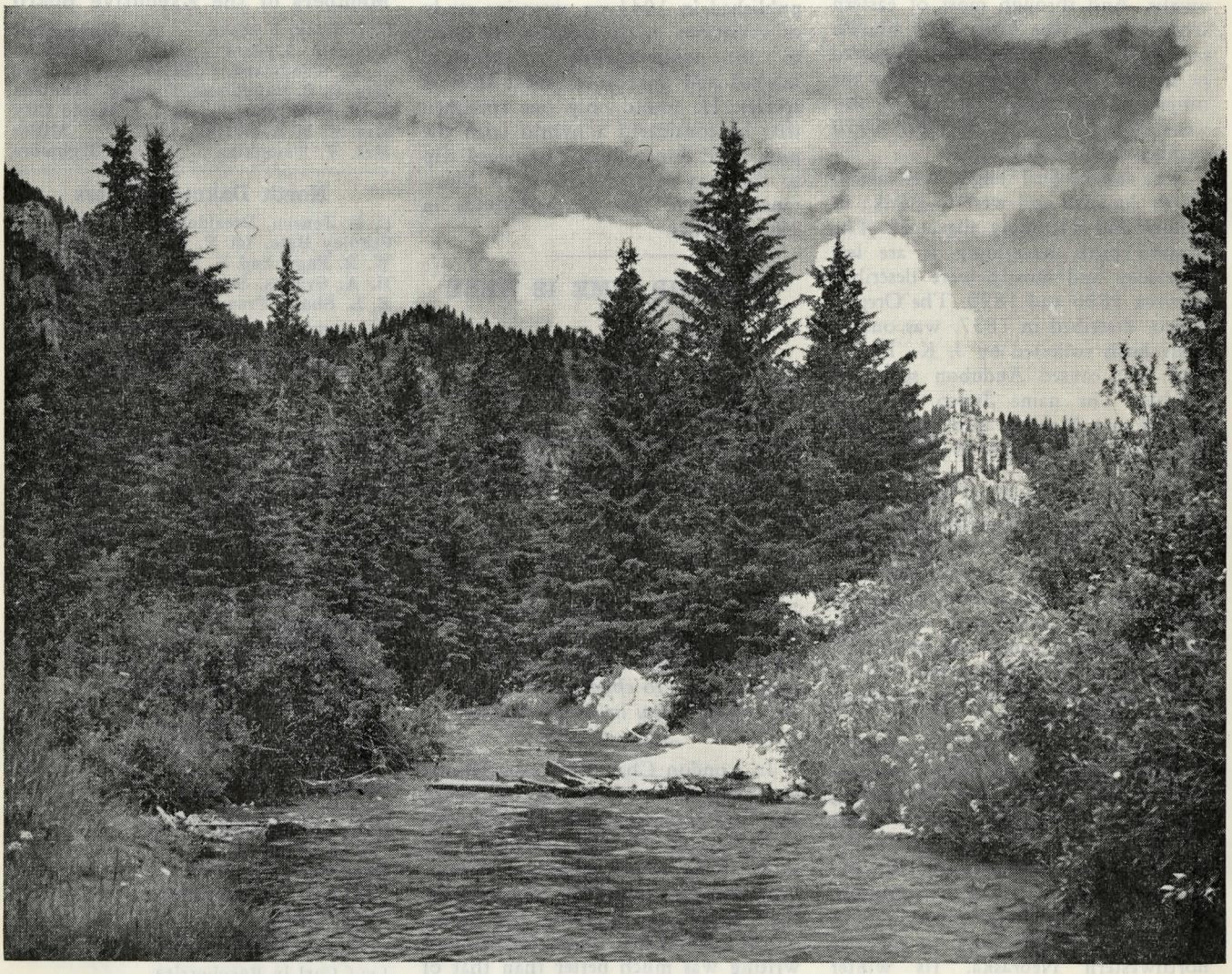
VOLUME 28 NUMBER 4

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

APRIL, 1955



Spearfish Canyon, showing our state tree, the Black Hills Spruce. Courtesy of the South Dakota Department of Game Fish, and Parks. *Photo by Bob Gage.*

THE WHITE-WINGED JUNCO

by

O. A. STEVENS

O. A. Stevens

Junco is an odd word that has become well established. It apparently originated with a German naturalist in 1831 and is thought to be from the Latin word Juncus, which is used for a group of wiry stemmed plants known as rushes.

Our first known kind was called hyemalis by Linnaeus, a slight variation of Catesby's original name of nivalis. And through most of eastern United States the birds were known as "snow birds" because they appeared in winter. This eastern bird was the subject of the second article in this series of notes in the October 1930 number of our magazine.

The eastern bird ranges over eastern North America and west to Alaska in summer and is strongly migratory. The western birds resembling it are less migratory and mostly were described between 1880 and 1890. The Oregon Junco, described in 1837, was one of those birds collected by J. K. Townsend that caused Audubon so much trouble. The name Junco first was applied to a Mexican bird, one of the few that occurs south of the United States.

Some seven forms of the Oregon Junco have been recognized and there are five or six others in the western states. Those that overlap in their ranges show intergradation which has been explained on the basis of hybridization. Elliott Coues said hybridization was not an explanation but insisted that the white-winged Junco was a "good" species.

It was first described by Robert Ridgway in 1873 and differs from the eastern bird by having two white wing bars and more of a gray color without reddish tints. It has three outer tail feathers white (two in eastern Junco). It has quite a limited distribution, nesting in the Black Hills, eastern Wyoming and Montana to extreme northwestern Nebraska. Its winter movements are along the foothills in Colorado, into western Kansas and sometimes to Oklahoma. It quite possibly may occur in southwestern North Dakota but the pines there are about 2000 feet lower than in the bird's normal summer home.

Nests are built on the ground, as with various other small sparrows and the eggs are greenish white with some brownish spots. Very little has been published on nesting habits.

Some of my correspondents used to report "pink-sided Juncos" but these were probably fall and immature birds of the slate-colored Junco. How much the different kinds get shuffled in migration is a question. The pink-sided is reported common in winter at Laramie, Wyoming, but it nests at higher elevations than does the white-winged farther west.

Dr. Alden H. Miller of California published in 1941 an extensive study of variations in the Juncos. He refers to the white-winged as strongly marked and one of the most isolated species. He found only one specimen that he considered a hybrid with the pink-sided Junco but on a special trip to the area (Powder River in Montana) secured three more hybrids in 39 specimens.

GREENUP TIME IS HERE

by

MARY LOUISE KINYON

Was there ever a season as lovely as spring?
Listen to the brown thrush sing,
Watch that kite as it soars on high,
Bowing and flirting with the light blue sky.

The warmth of the sun-soft spring rain
The feel of the earth as it wakes again.
Little brown buds will soon burst
And delicate green will cover the earth
Nature seems to chuckle and grin,
Not to be happy in spring is a sin.

In London Chas. Finlayson-Hunter was dragged into court on the charge that he was driving under the influence of something stronger than tea. To prove it the doctor submitted a specimen of the prisoner's handwriting. The magistrate dismissed the charge on the ground that Finlayson-Hunter's writing was much better than that of the doctor.—TED STEELE.

APRIL, 1955

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NEWSLANTS

by

HARRY A. GRAVES

Graves

Gardeners in the Upper Midwest can now purchase roses in a wide variety of color, type of bloom and hardiness. There are about five main garden groups advertised. Hardy roses, Floribundas Hybrid Teas, Climbers and Tree roses. Climbers and Tree roses can be grown if the gardener is willing to pay the price and fuss with them. Most people won't want to bother.

Hardy roses are generally single, or at best semi-double. They are usually tall growing and blooms are usually borne on short stems. They are grown for their landscape effect as a shrub. As a general thing, they don't bloom for more than ten days to three weeks each season. Familiar hardy rose varieties are Harrison's Yellow, Hansa, Betty Bland, Gruss an Teplitz and F. J. Grootendorst. Pruning out two or three old canes to the ground each spring after the bush has reached maturity will help keep these hardy sorts young and vigorous. Often without any serious pruning, these hardy varieties bloom for a good long time.

Floribundas are free blooming roses that bloom from mid-June until frost. They come single, semi-double and some are completely double. Several blooms are usually found on a single stem. One often finds buds, partly open blooms and hips from which the petals have fallen all on a single stem at the same time. As a consequence, Floribundas do not lend themselves to cutting. Individual buds do open nicely in small rose bowls. Floribundas are of greatest importance as a garden feature. Several of them can be grown in a relatively small space. With fertile soil and supplemental water during dry spells, two foot spacing is satisfactory. There are many good Floribunda varieties available for 1955. A list of the top varieties would have to include Goldilocks, Red Pinocchio, Valentine, World's Fair and White Pinocchio.

Hybrid Teas are the aristocrats of the rose world. They are the roses you buy from the florist. With a bit of attention to soil fertility, disease and insect control, beautiful hybrid tea roses for cutting can be grown in many Upper Midwest gardens. Here again there are many popular varieties. All things considered, Peace is perhaps still the number one Hybrid Tea rose. For vigor it is unexcelled. Chrysler Imperial —a newer rose—is highly rated. Because it is a relatively new variety it is still quite expensive. Crimson Glory, Katherine T. Marshall and New Yorker are three more very good Hybrid Teas.

Floribundas and Hybrid Teas need winter protection here in the north. The simplest way to protect these roses is to mound the individual plants with soil to a heighth of 8 to 10 inches in late October. For further cultural directions write the Informations Department at State College Station, Fargo, for a copy of Circular A-118 "Roses for North Dakota." We suggest you start out with two or three plants until you learn the ropes.

The Department of Horticulture, University of Minnesota has announced the introduction of two new garden chrysanthemums. *Wenonah* is described as the earliest flowering of the University of Minnesota line of mums. It is a medium tall variety with light lavender blooms averaging 2¼ inches in diameter. *Vulcan* is the first solid red in this U. of M. line of garden chrysanthemums. Flowers are very double and range from 2½ to 2¾ inches in diameter. Vulcan begins to bloom at St. Paul in mid-August and blooms until frost. For more information on these and other Minnesota chrysanthemums write for Miscellaneous Report No. 25 from the Department of Horticulture, University Farm, St. Paul.

From J. Earl Cook, president of the Men's Garden Club of Salem, Oregon, comes an issue of Garden News, monthly publication of the Salem club. It contains one-half page of ads and three pages of garden hints and horticultural subject matter. The slogan, "Old Gardeners Never Die, They Just Spade Away," adorns the top of pages two and three. Cook is a former Ransom County Agent and Extension Poultryman for North Dakota. He now has an insurance agency in Salem.

The tragic story of the passenger pigeon is told in a new book by Dr. A. W. Schorger, professor of wildlife management at the University and a member of the State Conservation Commission. The title is "The Passenger Pigeon—Its Natural History and Extinction" (University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, Wis.; price, $7.50).

The National Council of State Clubs, the largest amateur garden organization in the country with about 400,000 members in 10,000 clubs, representing 43 state federations, has designated April 17 to 23, 1955, as National Garden Week. This is the week containing April 22, the birthday of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day. The National Council is observing National Garden Week and Arbor Day, and it is hoped that not only will garden leaders engage in beautifying their homes and communities through the planting of trees and shrubs but will encourage other individuals and organizations to do the same, using whatever ways and means they have at their command.

We wish to say "howdy" to South Dakota Society president, John Atkinson, who was introduced to us by his column, "Presidental Prattle" in the February-March issue.

When Russel Wodarz mentioned in last month's issue, the importance of keeping some sort of a garden and orchard record, he hit many of us on a tender and vulnerable spot. Keeping horticultural records is a necessary evil. Good pocket diaries can be had for a few cents and are a valuable reference over the years. These articles by Russel Wodarz are very worthwhile. We are fortunate to have the benefit of his years of experience with fruit in the Red River Valley.

The New England Homestead for March 26 carried a couple of articles on maple sap harvesting. Sounds like a subject far removed from the midwest? Did you know that there is a sizeable maple syrup enterprise not over fifty miles from Fargo in the Audubon-Lake Cormorant, Minnesota, area? A fine product is produced and sold locally during the summer months.

Here are a few vegetable varieties I want you to try this year if they are new to you: Cavalier tomato; Miniature sweet corn; Caserta summer squash; Niagara cucumber, a slicer; York State picking cucumber; Top-

(*Continued on page* 48)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

MRS. EARL KINDRED

Mrs. Kindred

How deeply seated in the human heart is the liking for gardens and gardening.

In an article written by John E. Gibson "What Your Hobby Tells About You," he has analyzed the hobby of gardening this way: The man who has an affinity for the soil, who loves to see things grow under his hand, is seldom shallow or superficial or materialistic. He tends to be solidly integrated—mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. He has an instinctive feeling for the real fundamental of life, as expressed by the beauty and rhythm of nature.

To dig one's hands in to the fresh fragrant earth, to plant seeds and see them reaffirm the miracle of life, is one of the most soul-satisfying and emotionally stabilizing experiences a man can know. The gardening hobbyist has the wisdom to understand and appreciate these things more fully than most. And as a consequence, he is apt to have a stronger sense of security and enjoy a greater peace of mind than most people.

The Fish Lake Country Club of Plankinton deserves a great deal of credit for sponsoring a Tulip Festival in their city beginning May 23 and continuing for four days. This is the second year for the venture and it has been greatly expanded. Last year, since they were trying out the adaptability of soil and climate 1000 bulbs were planted, and many hundreds came to see them. Last fall 23,000 bulbs were planted by the club and nearly 7000 more were planted by townspeople. In their yards, along boulevards, and wherever a spot was available and artistic designs were worked out in the plantings. Certainly it will be worth driving miles to see their breathtaking beauty. Iowa, Michigan and other states have tulip festivals and now South Dakota has one, too.

In addition to seeing the thousands of blossoms, those attending will be royally entertained in other ways. Bands from neighboring cities will perform, there will be a parade with colorful floats and entertainment is being brought in from Chicago, May 25 will be Governor's Day.

All this has been brought about through the hobby of one man who had an intense desire to bring beauty within the reach of the people of his state. Mr. J. S. Bartow, president of the Fish Lake Country Club is the originator of the idea and the chairman of the Festival. If anyone wishes more definite information, I am sure that he will be most happy to forward it to you. His address is Plankinton, South Dakota.

In the October issue of the Dakota Horticulture, Mr. Elliot, state forester had a fine article on his plan for Arbor Day plantings, especially around rural school houses. In the last issue was Gov. Foss' proclamation designating April 29, 1955 as Arbor Day. It would be a fine accomplishment for any garden club or individual to bring greater beauty to South Dakota by planting some of these school grounds, which in so many areas present a barren aspect to the children attending the schools, people living nearby and to those from other states traveling our highways.

There have been so many requests for information on the plan of National Council for clubs to participate in the plan for profit from book sales in their club, that I am repeating this information. Two things are necessary: One—Appoint a book chairman to represent your club. Two—Send her name and address, the name of your club and the name of the club president to National Council of Books, Inc., Box 4298, Philadelphia 44, Pa.

An outline of how it works will be sent to the club book chairman. She will receive book listings monthly so that she can report to her club the latest on garden books. In addition National Council will send any garden books requested on consignment, so that interesting displays can be an added feature of your club meetings. Members may order any books desired on gardening, fiction, non-fiction, books on sewing, decorating, cooking, hobbies, etc., through the book chairman. The club will receive 10 per cent of all sales. The Handbook for Flower Shows is the only book not subject to discount, but it is available at cheaper prices in quantity lots. Your State Federation also receives a small discount. At the end of the National Council year, March 31, the club receives a check for what has been earned through the above plan.

Let us not forget that the Horticulture Society also has a large library of books that may be borrowed and that magazine subscriptions may be secured at a saving by ordering them through Mr. Simmons.

So that you may have a complete directory of state officers and chairmen, clubs and club presidents, I am listing state officers and chairmen this month and clubs and club presidents in the next issue. Please keep on file. State officers:

President, Mrs. Earl Kindred, Miller; first vice president, Mrs. Frank Mock, Newark; second vice president, Mrs. C. W. Moyer, Winner; recording secretary, Mrs. Earl Locke, Webster; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Vern Tompkins; treasurer, Mrs. Oscar Oines, Volga.

District chairmen: Mrs. Ray Jarrett, Britton, district 1; Mrs. Andy Photokas, Huron, district 3; Mrs. Leo Montieth, Brookings, district 4; Mrs. Francis Nelson, Hurley, district 5; Mrs. Maurice Hartman, Miller, district 7; Mrs. Ed Paeth, Groton, district 8; Mrs. Al Bastian, Mobridge, district 9; Mrs. R. K. Morrell, Pierre, district 10.

Department chairmen: Mrs. Francis Bingen, Andover, Ways and Means; Miss Laura Sexauer, Brookings, Year Book Awards; Mrs. George Jorgensen, Dell Rapids, Flower Show; H. N. Dybvig, Dell Rapids, Blue Star Highway; Mrs. W. E. Drummond, Dell Rapids, Parliamentarian; Mrs. G. R. McArthur, Huron, Roadside Development; Mrs. Lewis Severance, Huron, General Awards; Miss Alice Platt, Langford, Programs and Lectures; Mrs. D. S. Baughman, Madison, Permanent Home; Miss Ruth Habeger, Madison, Birds; Mrs. A. W. Davidson, Mobridge, Historian; Mrs. Dean Carmine, Pierre, Legislation; J. M. Atkinson, Rapid City, Landscape Design; Mrs. R. G. Ferris, Sioux Falls, Slides; Miss Mildred Ibach, Sioux Falls, Garden Therapy; Mrs. Andrew Melham, Watertown, Visiting Gardens and Garden Centers; Mrs. Dagfin Lie, Webster, Flower Show Schools; Russell Rulon, Yankton, Horticulture.

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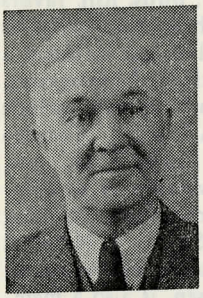
MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by
W. R. LESLIE



Leslie

Ornamentals with continued interest are much more esteemed than others which command attention but for a few fleeting days. An example is the displacement of the double - flowering plum with prairie almond. The former is an aristocratic subject when in luxuricant display of crowded double pink flowers. In about five days the flowers have dropped and there is left only an ordinary fruitless bush. At the Morden Experiment Station, the prairie almond carries blossoms two or three days longer. The bush is dwarfer, finer in twig, smaller in leaf and possesses the important merit of being decked with small copperish nuts into September.

Among other woody ornamentals which hold the interest of the homemaker and the passing stranger for a long or considerable period of summertime are mentioned here.

Dropmore scarlet trumpet honeysuckle, a hardy woody vine, is a gay show of scarlet and orange tubular flowers from June through October. It may well mark the house entrance, be part of perennial border, clothe a stump or rock, or provide drapery to a trellis or fence.

Panicle or Peegee hydrangea blooms freely in midsummer. The large panicles of flowers change from green through amber to white and then to brownish in autumn. As the name implies, the plant delights in a plentiful supply of water.

Leadplant, a native shrub to 2½ feet tall, is conspicuous all season with leaves made grayish by plenteous fine hairs. Its bluish flowers come rather late. Still later, and closely allied to another native, the dwarfindigo amorpha, comes panicles of longer bluish-purple flowers on amorpha brachypoda. It is the favorite species at Morden.

Chinese matrimony-vine, to 3 feet tall, has small purplish flowers which develop into long scarlet fruits. The shrub is handsome when laden with showy fruits until late autumn. The bright green leaves retain their color. Unfortunately the plant suckers but it is useful on a slope.

Turkestan euonymus, almost evergreen, is prized as a 4-foot shrub which displays its scarlet and orange arils until autumn. It makes an excellent dense low unclipped hedge.

Kashmir falsespirea, sorbaria aitchisoni, a bush to 5 feet, from Kashmir, is superior to the common Ural falsespirea, being neater and less prone to suckering. Its bright green pinnate leaves contrast pleasingly with the bright stems, petioles and seed clusters.

Shrubby cinquefoil, or potentilla, is outstanding among native shrubs for summer blooms. Farrer potentilla from Asia is most impressive. Deep golden blooms brighten the small shrub from mid-June until mid-October.

Long season herbaceous perennials bring much fuller satisfaction to the homemaker on a smaller property than do kinds which have a short period of gaiety. Some of these esteemed at the Morden Station are mentioned briefly here.

Lythrums or loosestrifes are relatively newcomers to prairie gardens. The typical Wand lythrum is a dull violet purple. From it came Morden pink, a variety which contributes pinkish brightness to the border from late June until September. Two of its hybrid daughters, Morden Rose, which is a clearer more radiant pink, and Morden gleam, a reddish carmine, add variety of color and a somewhat neater habit. Dropmore purple is a desirable dark variety.

Caucasian scabious bear shapely flattened flowers of blue, purplish or white to a height of 2 to 3 feet from early July through summer into October. Like the lythrums, the scabious is a durable flower for cutting.

Rosyveil gypsophila, or babysbreath, produces its abundance of pale mauvy-pink double flowers from spring until autumn. Sprays are used to lighten up table bouquets.

Shadow Valley is a favorite carnation-like member of the pink family. Its rich red double clovey flowers are borne in June and until heavy frosts. This is another impressive flower for cutting.

Among native plants, the gaillaridia or blanketflower, is notable for its bright flowers, yellow and red, yellow, or burgundy, from early summer to late September. To encourage continuous free flowering, spent flower stalks are removed as petals fall.

Ozark sundrops, or Missouri evening primrose is another tireless flowering perennial. Its rich golden flowers, sometimes 5 inches across, arise from trailing branches in June and continuously into deep September.

Iceland poppy can be counted on to adorn its setting from May into September, if conditions be cool and flower stems are removed before seeds form.

The little Viola, Johnny-Jump-Up, can be relied on to produce flowers in spring and steadily until late summer. These little plants, 6 to 12 inches tall, may spring up throughout the border as they tend to volunteer growth.

Obedientplant or physostegia, native to northern Manitoba, reaching a height of 2 to 4 feet, produces flowering spikes during July, August and September. Colors are rosy-pink, lilac or white.

Sea lavender, an 18-inch plant, becomes arrayed with a cloud of small soft-tinted purplish flowers on wiry stems in June. These are showy into September. Cut in early stages, flower stems provide winter bouquets.

Morden almond was introduced in 1954. It arose as a cross between prairie almond and a numbered reciprocal sister plant which bears single, bright red flowers. The plant is dwarfish. Branches are slender. Leaves are narrow and small. Flowers are double, slightly smaller than the grandparent, prunus triloba flora plena, but of deeper pink color, and somewhat longer lasting. Flowers are followed by a generous crop of coppery pink nuts which adorn the plant until deep into September.

Morden almond adds one more subject to the list of distinctive small to medium sized woody, hardy ornamental shrubs. It is a graceful bush, fine in texture of branch and leaf, and possesses the great merit of sustained interest. Where its grandmother, the double-flowering plum, is a glorious sight for four or five days while in springtime bloom it is inconspicuous the balance of the year. At the Morden Experimental Station, the flowers on the Morden almond have been very numerous; larger and much more rich-

(*Continued on page* 40)

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

by

MRS. VERN TOMPKINS
Highmore, S. D.

Mrs. Tompkins

The Sunshine Garden Club, of Highmore, held their February meeting at the Tompkins home, with President Bertha Christensen, presiding. The announcement of the judging school to be held in Huron, in April, was read. We decided to take up a collection at the March meeting, for the Permanent Home of National Council. Roll call topic was "Plants and People in the News." For the program, Thelma Christensen presented an article on "The Florida Gardener," and Mrs. J. Mews one on "Flowers for Florida Homes." Mrs. Ben Bouzek and Mrs. John Eckstein assisted the hostess in serving, and Mrs. Frank Cermak poured. Candles and flowers enhanced the Valentine theme.

The Better Row Garden Club, organized in March, 1954, by a group of Hyde County ladies, feel now that they have had a very good first year. Marguerite Shepard, reporter-secretary, sends the report. She says "We very much enjoyed being guests of the Sunshine Garden Club in July, at a lovely brunch. Several members took an active part in the flower show in August. We had a guest day and had fun with hats made from growing things, brought by members and guests. Mrs. Emory Hinkle was re-elected president for another year. Among topics studied are—flower shows, freezing and storing of vegetables, and the International Peace Garden. We are finding garden club work a nice and practical diversion, and feel that we have had a successful first year." Thank you, Marguerite. Come again.

Mrs. Grace Hinds, secretary of the Prairie Flower Garden Club, Artesian, sends the following report. The club, organized in May, 1954, now has twenty-four members. Nita Jorgensen and Mrs. Hollis Silkensen, Dell Rapids, assisted the club in organizing. Mrs. Alden Scott is president. Meetings are held the fourth Friday of the month, with a good attendance, and one or two demonstrations each meeting. Members visited flower shows in Madison, Mitchell, and Dell Rapids, and took honors in Mitchell and Glenview shows. A tulip tea is planned for spring. Glad to hear from you, Mrs. Hinds. Do it again, won't you?

Now, what I'd like to know, is "Why doesn't a club that is as outstanding as the Mitchell club come on in and give the rest of us a lift?" Do you know what? Those energetic girls have staged six shows in one year. Never mind how I know—but, the bank which sponsors these shows would like even more. The bank pays for the printing, ribbons (handsome big satin ones), and has a huge trophy vase as a traveling award, for the most blue ribbons over the year, as well as a fine permanent prize. Many, many gorgeous displays are entered. Come on in, Mitchell, and let us work together.

Mrs. Lewis Severance sends a belated, but too good to leave out, report of the doings of the Fair City Garden Club, Huron, for December. Mrs. Mildred Sampson, Minneapolis, was guest speaker in December. Mrs. Sampson's speaking tour included Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis and Cincinnati. Other garden clubs wishing her services should contact her well in advance, as she is booked up a long time ahead, especially around the holidays. The meeting in Huron was held in the college chapel, which was beautifully decorated, using displays furnished by local florists. Mrs. Sampson told of the origin, history, and legends of many of her decorations, such as: angels, trees of great beauty, birds, fish, favors and centerpieces. These were given as door prizes. This club has included a Buyer's Guide in each of the programs. Topics presented each month include "Flower Seeds," "A Lilac," "Tomato Plants," "A Good Shade Tree," etc. This year Mrs. Severance is superintendent of the Horticulture Building at the State Fair. She is a National Council accredited judge. Her assistant, Mrs. H. P. Rassmussen, is also a member of the Fair City Club. Judges last year were Mrs. R. G. Ferris, Sioux Falls, a National accredited judge; Mr. Christopherson, Yankton florist; Dr. McCrory and Dr. Rawson, from the Horticulture Department at State College. Mrs. Severance plans to continue having at least one of the judges be a National accredited flower show judge, thus insuring garden club members that their exhibits will be judged according to National Garden Club standards. Mr. Harry Woodward, state forester, Pierre, was guest speaker at the February meeting, held in the Y. W. C. A. Hostesses were Mrs. Gene Calvert and Miss Edith Churton. The door prize was a white violet, grown by one of the members. Roll call topic—A bird that frequents your bird feeder. Many birds were named and also many foods and methods of feeding. Many use their bird baths as feed-

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LANDSCAPING THE HOME

by

J. M. ATKINSON

Things to Consider When Building a New Home

If you are planning on building a new home several things should be decided before the foundation is dug. The location should have drainage. Grading and filling should be kept to a minimum to conserve the natural beauty of the site.

If a pleasing view is available from any direction, plan the picture windows to take advantage of such a beauty spot. Any large shade tree that can be saved will furnish welcome shade until the newly planted material can grow to maturity.

The house design may influence its location. For instance a tall house should be placed farther back from the street than a lower structure would need to be.

Things

The contour of the building site should influence the placing of walks and drives. Avoid useless curves or bends. Design the drives to follow the contour of the land where possible. Plan walks and parking space for convenience to house entrances. Always keep convenience in mind when placing garage and other out buildings. Try to avoid an artificial atmosphere by planning the house to fit the grounds. Suit the landscape design to the topography of the building site.

Private Area

Of all three areas the private portion of the home ground has become the most important in recent years. It affords a place out of doors where the whole family may relax and rest. For greatest enjoyment this area should have some open space covered with grass, some shade and an inclosing boundary planting to give privacy. Other items which may be regarded as essentials are a flower garden, perennial garden, rose garden, rock garden, lilly pool and out door fire place. The trend is to include the maximum pleasure with minimum upkeep.

Some private areas suffer from too much shade. Too many large trees will make it difficult to grow shrubs, plants or grass. The ideal arrangement includes some sunny spots in contrast to some shaded spots.

Landscaping the Home

Landscaping is the art of adapting land and the objects on it to human use and enjoyment, thus making the world a more beautiful and comfortable place in which to live. One need not be an expert to create artistic and practical planting for a home site.

The first step is to prepare a complete plan of the entire site. This is important whether the planting is to be completed in one or in several years. This procedure will help you to avoid mistakes which might not be obvious till later.

Generally the grounds are divided into three separate areas. These are the public area, service area and private area. These divisions when skillfully handled result in good landscape design. There is no exact formula to follow in laying out these areas as each individual family's requirement is different.

Public Area

The public area portion usually termed as the front yard or lawn, shrubbery, and trees are used to form a setting and frame for the house, much in the same manner as a picture is matted and framed.

Service Area

The service area is that portion of the grounds used for clothes lines, vegetable garden, children's sand pile and play ground equipment, etc. This area has shrunk greatly in the last fifty years. Formerly it comprised the whole back yard, but with modern-day equipment of clothes dryers and modern super markets supplying the fresh vegetables once grown in the back yard. The service area is almost out-moded.

Fitting the House to Building Site

It is very hard to create a beautiful landscape development without a plan of some kind.

A simple and easy method is to use cross-section paper. It is usually ruled off in small squares, 10 to the inch. The heavier lines are one-inch apart.

A. Select a convenient scale to work with. On-inch equals 10 feet or one-inch equals 20 feet.

B. Measure the boundary or property lines and indicate on plan. Locate your house and existing trees, etc.

C. Draw in house floor plan. Indicate doors, windows, etc.

D. Put in arrow showing north and south.

E. Use tracing paper over plan of existing features to experiment with several designs of lawn area, outdoor grill, screen planting, drives, etc.

F. After trying several solutions to your problem and deciding on the best, copy the tracing paper drawing on the cross-section paper.

G. Work out a planting plan to fit your final design.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—

(*Continued from page* 36)

By the time this reaches you, course one of the Flower Judging Schools will have been held at Webster and Huron and more interested gardeners have become better informed and have started work towards becoming accredited judges.

Districts 4 and 7 have scheduled district meetings on May 10, and May 9 respectively and several of the other districts are planning meetings a bit later.

At present there have been at least ten from South Dakota signifying their intention to attend the National Council meeting in Chicago, May 22-27.

Plans are going forward for our state convention June 13-14-15 at Watertown and I hope to have a complete program for you in the May issue. The convention call will reach you in early May with your credential card enclosed for our state meeting. Let's plan for the biggest attendance ever at the Watertown meeting. You have heard the saying that: Everything takes cooperation.

BOOK REVIEWS

by

MRS. R. G. FERRIS

The Pruning Manual by Everett P. Christopher. The Macmillan Co., 60 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y. Price $5.00.

This book is the successor to "The Pruning Manual" issued in 1898 by the late Liberty Hyde Bailey, and has been the standard reference in its field for more than half a century. The foreword written by Dr. Bailey, reads, "The present edition is over fifty years old. It is badly in need of a complete revision. It must be rewritten from start to finish. Its scope must meet the demands of modern horticulture. If this is not done, newer books on cognate lines will attract potential interests, but may not meet the needs of the user. . . . My age is now considerable as I am nearly ninety-five. Life is not indefinite and I cannot expect to live to see this new edition in its final form. However that may be, I do commend its revision and urge its reviser to keep in mind that he writes for the man who must decide how to use the shears and the saw." Dr. Bailey's life ended the last week of 1954. I am sure he saw the new edition of "The Pruning Manual." Bailey's place in history will be with two other men of our generation: Albert Einstein, who ushered in the atomic age, and Albert Schweitzer, who has brought new concepts of man's humanity to man.

But getting back to the book, with its "dos and don'ts" in pruning techniques. The nineteen chapters with many drawings and photographs give pruning instructions for all temperate-zone fruits, shade trees and shrubs, including roses. Basic reasons are given for every pruning practice. Every direction can be easily followed by the home owner but the book has special basic value for professionals and students.

☆

The Arnold Arboretum Garden Book by Donald Wyman. D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 250 Fourth Ave., New York 3, N. Y. Price $5.95.

For more than eighty years the Arnold Arboretum, described as, "America's Greatest Garden," has given us information bulletins and articles on ornamental woody plants. The author, Donald Wyman, present Horticulturist of the Arnold Arboretum, has gathered forty of the most recent popular and interesting issues of practical value to gardeners everywhere, and published them in book form. Seven other horticulturists have written about their specialties, such as, dwarfing trees, build bird population with food plants and plant breeding. Trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, their reactions to a variety of conditions, hardiness and all phases of interest to the home gardener are discussed. It is a handsome book, printed on good paper, including many black and white photographs and four color plates. Deluxe in every way, with a slight Boston atmosphere, and worthy to be on any bookshelf.

☆

Vegetable Growing by James E. Knott. Lea & Febiger, 600 Washington Square, Philadelphia 6, Pa. Price $5.

A radical change in our eating habits has developed in the last 35 years. Estimates of the per capita consumption of fresh vegetables show a rise from 100.7 pounds a year in 1919 to 146.0 pounds in 1954. Twice as many canned vegetables and five times as many frozen vegetables are being used, but the eating of potatoes dropped from 150 pounds to 104 pounds and sweet potatoes from 29 to 8 pounds per person during this period. Other vegetables are coming forward, such as broccoli, that was not among the 21 important ones in 1919. More brussels sprouts, lima beans and peas are used from the frozen than from the fresh or canned condition. The consumer is interested in a good product that requires little labor in preparing it for the table.

Vegetable Growing, fifth edition, thoroughly revised, with 88 illustrations gives information about classification, soils, seedage, fertilizing, moisture supply, weed control, insect and disease control, storage and marketing. Addresses of state and federal agencies from which vegetable publications are available is given at the end of the book, also a complete index for easy reference. This book has up to date information for anyone having a large home garden, a roadside market or doing commercial truck farming.

☆

Wild Flowers and How to Grow Them by Edwin F. Steffek. Crown Publishers, Inc., 419 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y. Price $3.95. From the Anemone Clan to Yellow Stargrass, nearly 400 species of wild flowers are discussed in this book. The common and botanical names of each genus, with its listed species are given, along with detailed descriptions of where they grow, blooming season, culture, and how to propagate. Perhaps the information on propagation is the most useful part of this book. Lists of flowers which may be picked freely, and flowers which may be picked in moderation, are given, also how to transplant, care for and increase their number in the home garden.

The author says, "We cannot halt the advance of our so-called civilization, but we can at least do something to stop the wholesale disappearance of the beautiful and often already rare native plants, thus saving some of them for future generations to enjoy. Therefore, it was with this in mind that this book was written. It is an attempt to point the way, to show *what* can be done and *how*. The rest is up to you, the reader—to decide whether future generations will ever know the beauty of our plants or not."

This book is sponsored by *The American Nature Association* and *The Wild Flower Preservation Society*. 100 illustrations, 50 in full color.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER—

(*Continued from page* 37)

ly colored than those of its mother, prairie almond, but both have been relatively long lasting. The main drawback apparent at present is the difficulty in propagation. The branches are so thin that there is difficulty in getting stout buds for transferring onto seedling stocks in the nursery. It strikes fairly well from greenwood cuttings.

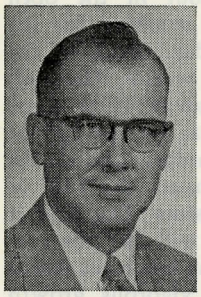
The new tribe of hardy ornamental almonds arises from the two oriental members of the plum family, prunus triloba and P. pedunculata. The former is well known. The latter has not yet been accorded a common name in Standardized Plant Names.

Prunus pedunculata falls in the tangut almond, prunus tangutica, group. It is abundantly hardy coming to America from Siberia. Mature shrubs may be nearly six feet tall. The dark brown branchlets are finely hairy, leaves are narrow and small to 1½ inches long. The solitary flowers are pinkish but usually pale.

PROFIT FROM A HOME GARDEN

by

LLOYD C. AYRES
Extension Horticulturist



Ayres

There have been a number of inquiries about how much a home garden is worth. Many people are of the opinion that they do not have enough space around their home to grow vegetables or fruit. The little that they can grow is not worth the effort. How can we show these people that it doesn't take very much room to grow some vegetables and fruit?

It is not the purpose of this article to tell how efficient a flower box is for growing parsley or some mints, or to tell you how much joy can be obtained from such an enterprise.

Let us ask ourselves just how much a garden is worth. Does it save me any money? Will it supply enough food in return for my labor and costs? If we answer these questions, then we are taking the practical side of the problem, and if we find that it is practical, then let's say it is very worthwhile. If we were developing it as a hobby, we wouldn't pay any attention to the cost, because then it would be our hobby, and it is developing "something inside" or for me and the cost isn't important. But let's stay with the practical viewpoint for now.

A vegetable garden that is doing a worthwhile job of putting food on the table should be large enough to have twelve to fifteen different kinds of vegetables growing in it. So you see, an area of ground 5 feet square will give you enough space to plant one each of sixteen different vegetables, with one foot spacings. Practical? I doubt that most families would find very much use for this type of garden. However, it would be a valuable educational effort if you had never grown these sixteen vegetables before.

It will be necessary to have a larger area of ground to provide these twelve or fifteen vegetables in large enough quantity to have very much benefit to a family's food supply. The size, of course, will depend upon the kind of vegetables you are going to grow. You need enough of an area to provide as little competition with each other as possible, therefore, correct spacing is necessary. The type of cultivation it will receive, such as by hand or machinery, will govern the size. Whether or not you are going to irrigate will govern the area needed, etc. There are a number of factors that will govern the size of your garden.

Let us take a certain sized garden and see what we can obtain from it. Many city lots will have an area of 40 x 50 feet at the back, which can be and is often used for the garden. Will an area this size be large enough to supply a family of four or five with food for a year? I can answer that quickly by saying, no; but wait a moment. An area the size of 40 x 50 feet can supply a great deal of fresh, canned and frozen vegetables for your use during the year. In a garden this size, it will be necessary to grow annual crops. Do not use vine crops such as squash or melons which take up a great deal of space. It will be possible to grow radishes, lettuce, beans, peas, beets, carrots, cabbage, onions, tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers, turnips, spinach, and even cucumbers in this area.

Although these will not supply all the vegetables a family of five will need in a year, they will provide health to the family, furnish vegetables for a high nutritional diet, and at the same time, save dollars on the food bill. How many food dollars will it save? Those that have kept an account of the food produced from an area this size have discovered that, if they had bought the same quantity of food on the market it would have cost them from 75 to 100 dollars. And this is after the cost of seed, cost of dusts and sprays, cost of canning and freezing materials, and costs of gardening tools have been subtracted. They also say that the quality of home-grown foods are so much better. Even those you can or freeze have higher quality than what you buy.

Is this enough of a saving for you? Think of the number of things that an extra 75 or 100 dollars could be used for!

The farm folks have it all over the city folks in having a garden. There is plenty of land, and an ideal location for a garden can be obtained. Generally, a farm garden will be machine cultivated. Since land is not a problem, any quantity can be used. How much land is required to provide a family with vegetables and fruit for a year—five, ten, or fifteen acres?

Do you know that a one-acre farm garden, machine cultivated, is more than sufficient to supply the vegetables and fruits needed for a family of five? Not only may annual vegetables be grown, but also perennial beds or rhubarb and asparagus and vine crops such as melons, squash and pumpkins. Also, small fruit such as strawberries and raspberries, and some apple, plum and cherry trees should be added. All this in a one-acre garden. How much will a one-acre garden, planned to produce vegetables and fruit, be worth in relation to the annual food budget?

The one-acre garden can produce all the vegetables and fruit needed over a period of a year by canning, freezing and storage. This will amount to a saving of over 500 dollars on the yearly food bill. No other acre on the farm will provide as much as that acre put into vegetables and fruits.

Now is the time to plan for the family garden. In it you will find satisfaction in growing your own for a better nutritional diet, and in saving a large sum on the cost of foods.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS—

(*Continued from page* 38)

ers in the winter. Mrs. Severance made a "nosegay for Sis" and explained that a nosegay is small, gay, and fragrant. Mrs. George Wolker gave information on buying a lilac. The February project was a "Valentine for Grandmother." Cookies, jam, and plants with Valentine cards and wrappings were brought, to be taken to shutins, older people, and convalescents, on February 14th, by a committee of four. This committee is to keep in touch with these people. Mr. Woodward showed beautiful slides of "Wild Flowers," and afterward conducted a very informative discussion on "Roadside Parks." Mrs. Glen McArthur, past regional director, is the 1955 president of the Fair City Club. She was a charter member of the club.

The Blossom and Bulb Club, Miller, sent scrapbooks, with pictures to fill them, giving the children something to do, to the Crippled Children's Home, in Sioux Falls. They also made an

(*Continued on page* 44)

ROSES—WHAT TO GROW AND HOW TO GROW THEM

by

MRS. CARL METZGER, Huron

Mrs. Metzger

Gardeners should be thinking of roses for the coming spring. To get in on the ground floor now is the time to make out that order and get it on its way. It's discouraging later on to be told: "Sorry but we are all out of that particular rose."

The first step is to get out the catalogs, order blanks and check book. What roses to get and where is the question. The experienced gardener will already know the answer. It will be a list of those which she does not already have and she will select them from the top of the AARS selections. And, of course, some of the 1955 All Americans will be included.

Let's talk over these roses for places where the rose garden is small or perhaps practically non-existent. The American Rose Society has around twenty testing grounds throughout the country. Minneapolis is nearest. Portland, Ore., has a 14-acre tract, a plot of ground for each variety. So a rose that come through with flying colors has to be tops in vigor, beauty and hardiness.

Heading the list is Peace. No other rose has so high a percentage. "Golden yellow, ovoid buds etched with pink, changing from canary-yellow to pale gold, to irridescent cream" is the description in the catalog. All I can say is, Peace is better than that.

For years Crimson Glory has been one of the big ten and right now it is number two. With its many velvety blooms Crimson Glory is the favorite red in my garden. New Yorker has "rich color, pleasing raspberry fragrance, exquisite beauty, and exceptional hardiness." I bought a potted New Yorker from a local florist. It was so sturdy and mature that I was picking roses in a very short time.

Of course, I'm sure that everyone will want Mirandy, a brilliant maroon-red; also Rubaiyat, a scintillating crimson. They are lovely. I fear I'm like the poet who said: "Any color just so it's red, is the color that suits me best." Just one more red, a floribunda. It's Independence, with clusters of six in firecracker-red. This rose never fails to draw exclamations of delight from all who see it.

What about pink roses? K. T. Marshall is a warm glowing rose, fragrant, delightful. I couldn't garden without Fashion, a floribunda, which has a touch of coral suffused with yellow. Ma Perkins, also a floribunda, has high lights of red in the petals, and yellow at their base. I was a bit disappointed in Mohave at first but its blooms were gorgeous later. Its growth was not so luxuriant as New Yorker's but think that it had too much shade so shall move it come spring. As I make out my order for roses this chill December day I am including Betty Prior with her dogwood-like buds and blooms.

Just a word of warning. Do not buy second-grade bushes from unreliable firms. Buy from nurseries that specialize in roses, roses backed by a guarantee. I take a heap of pains when planting a rose but if it does not do as well as it should I know that my favorite rose specialists will gladly replace it.

Early April is the time to plant roses. I do hope that you took time out to order them before the supply of the ones you especially wanted ran out. The bushes will be sent to you at the proper time for your locality. When they arrive unwrap and place in a pail of water for several hours, covering with burlap so that the tops will not dry out. This should give you ample time to prepare the rose bed. If not able to plant them for a few days bury them—almost that is—in a trench and keep well watered.

Plant the roses out in the open where they can get sunshine for the major part of the day. Shade in the late afternoon would be nice. Above all things keep them away from trees, hedges, and shrubs as by the end of summer said trees, hedges, and shrubs will completely exhaust the soil of plant food and moisture. Dig into it in the fall and you will find the rose roots enmeshed in tiny tree roots which will prevent heavy vigorous growth the ensuing year.

Now get out your spade (a long handled diamond-point shovel is best) and start digging and I do mean digging. I visited a rose garden in Iowa one October and was so captivated by it that I asked the rose lady for her recipe for it. Here it is with additions from the experiences of the Annstaetts who have a wonderful rose garden at Columbus Ohio, and a bit of my own thrown in for good measure.

Dig a hole 3 feet deep by three and one-half across. Fill in with a mixture of barnyard manure, garden soil, peat moss, and a bit of sand, guaging this mixture as to depth, so that two inches of soil may be added before you insert the rose bush. Lift the rose from the water being careful not to expose the roots to the air. Hold

(*Continued on page* 43)

MY EXPERIENCES IN HORTICULTURE

by
R. L. WODARZ

Wodarz

It occurred to me rather often that there may be some of our Dakota folks that would like to breed up new varieties of fruit, but thinking it to be a difficult undertaking, one is apt to leave this to trained plant breeders. Anyone can do this if certain fundamental proceedings are carefully followed. I have reference to controlled fruit breeding; this is to be done in the open and I have done some of this, years ago, however, from lack of time and some other reasons, I switched over to open pollinated seed. To get at this, a person has to know the parts of a flower, like that of an apple blossom.

The essential parts of any seed producing plant would be the pistil and stamen. During my middle teen-age years, we kids, taking up botany, followed the Linnean system of plant classification so I have been pretty well acquainted with the different parts of a flower. This system classifies plants by the number of staymens its flower contains. Classes being Monandria with one staymen, Diandria with two staymens, Triandria with three staymens, and on to Polyandria with many staymens. To explain this, for instance, I go to a flower garden, single out a plant that is in bloom. I take a close look at the blossom, spy the stamens and count them. There are six. So it would belong to Hexandria, and I look this up in the botany book under class Hexandria. There are many plants described. Comparing the plant I singled out with the careful description in the book, I find it to be a lily, by further persuing and comparing I find it to be a Regal lily. Spring is here, apple blossoms will be out about the third, or last week of May. We will do some crossing and try to breed a new variety. First we want to pick out the parents. We will choose the Haralson as the mother plant, the Melba as the pollen parent. We will say it is May 20th and the Melba is starting to blossom. We will take a container, a can or a bowl, go to the tree. We take a look at the blossoms; some are open, some are partly open, and some are still hermetically sealed. Just those last ones we will pick. You see we want uncontaminated pollen that no bug or bee has ever touched. We will take the bowl with those plucked blossoms inside, take a pair of scissors, take off those unopened petals and clip the staymens as well as the pistil into a china teacup. Put this up in a warm airy room inside.

In a day or two the pollen will be more like yellow dust. Now we go to the Haralson tree. Here again we are interested in the flowers that are almost but not quite open. We are anxious to have Melba pollen on them and no other. Apple blossoms grow in clusters so we remove all but two of the blossoms. We open the flower, take off the petals. Now we see the staymens on the outside and the pistil in the middle. The staymens are carefully either with the tweezers or small long handled scissors cut. We have just the branched pistil left. Now we take a small paper bag and tie it tightly over the emasculated blossoms. Do it carefully so no bug can enter. In a day or two we bring the dust-like pollen, previously taken from the Melba, to the emasculated blossoms, take the bag off, dip our fingers into the pollen we have in the cup and brush this on the pistil and carefully tie the bag on again. If nothing goes wrong we will have seed with a pedigree of Haralson X Melba.

When I did some of this work years ago, I used plain paper bags, and most of the years they did well. But one year we had a good rain and terrific wind followed. You may imagine what happened. Now we can use stronger material like cellophane. As with the lily, it is easy to distinguish the stamens from the pistil which is in the middle.

Fuchsia, that beautiful house plant, is another where the pistil extends out in plain sight. With apple blossoms, the crabs as a rule, have a longer pistil than an apple of the Haralson variety. That part of the stamen that holds the pollen is the anther. It is this anther that we are much concerned about. After a person catches on to the rudiments of this work, many other ways suggest themselves. It seems fussy enough at first, but after the thing is done and done right, you have created something new.

ROSES—WHAT TO GROW—

(*Continued from page* 42)

it firmly at such a level that the rose graft will be one inch below the surface when the aperture is filled. Fill around roots with soil, tamping down firmly so that the earth around them is well packed. You probably have heard about the man who remarked, "Only one rose lived. I stepped on that one."

Fill the remaining aperture with water and let drain. Then fill in with rich soil, compost, and peat moss—a mixture of course, lifting the bush if the graft is more than an inch below ground level. Mound the earth several inches around it, trimming the exposed branches slightly. Cover with a wet burlap sack. Moisten this burlap often and in a few days the stems should be nicely budded. Level off the bed and cover with a two-inch mulch of cow manure, peat moss, or dried leaves. The value of a mulch is emphasized in an article on the Annstaett garden in Popular Gardening, February issue. Their watering system is also described in this issue. This fairyland of roses is visited by rosarians from all over these United States. A visit to this garden and to the test gardens in Minneapolis and Portland would be helpful.

For food for the roses scatter a handful of 4-12-4 or 6-10-4 (Vigoro) around each bush at monthly intervals through the spring and summer. For moisture lay the hose under the roses and water several hours until the ground is soaked way down. Do this once a week unless an inch of rain has fallen in this period.

If your roses are out in the open, and planted, mulched, fed and watered as directed they should have little or no disease. If any leaves do wilt dust immediately under the leaves with a reliable rose dust.

And may you go out to your roses daily, drink in the beauty of the lovely velvety blossoms, and pick them to your heart's content for your home, some dear ones, or for someone sick or lonely who needs their cheer. For help in arranging them study flower arrangement books, calendars, and your favorite garden magazines. Better yet, join a local garden club and enroll in our flower school in April.

GARDENERS ARE QUEER—AREN'T THEY?

by

MRS. G. R. MCARTHUR

Gardeners ARE queer—we even admit it. The typical specimen is middle-aged, staid, satisfied, enthusiastic, fair, fat and fortyish or more. Unfortunately, only rarely does the youthful spirit realize the excitement in this fascinating hobby. Therefore, the typical gardener (be it he's or she's) have chins, not just one, but a series of pillows beneath the mouth. Toward September these and other disadvantages grow less and less from the summer's vigorous activity in the garden.

Most middle also are a distinct liability, one may try to reach around and dig in comfort, or reach over, but no matter it has been definitely proven that what we need is a new model gardener, one with a long, low chassis able to get about in any part of the garden, one with colorful design which will add spice and verve to the overall view. Proving this point most gardeners are afflicted with something troublesome behind them. Especially do we envy our knitting-needle sisters with their svelte, slender silhouettes when we choose slacks as the official gardening garb. Slacks *are* wonderful for they do have useful pockets—if, gardeners possessed only a front view, but there is the OTHER aspect and even the proponents admit that the garment emphasizes without flattering.

Garden garb of the female of the species *IS* a problem. Of several schools of thought, first, there is the *slacks,* which ARE comfortable and all-enveloping. Then there is the younger school who favor *shorts,* sunny, airy, freedom of knee movement for stooping, and perfect for tanning. (But, wait until they add another ten years and twenty pounds.) Lastly there is the *"any-old-thing"* school, old shoes, dress and hot, this makes for real comfort, of course, but what about being caught by the city visitor who stops to admire our wonderful tuberous begonias. The male has it much easier than the female of the species, as he can don any old shirt and trouser and shoe and happily become, not-too-clean, but still be blissfully admired by his public as a "down-to-earth gardener."

We must not forget the clean gardener, who really is no gardener at all. She wears white shoes, a pretty summer dress and strolls up and down the garden path instructing the man what to take out and what to put in. One school calls her a "Lady Gardener" and another calls her a "Hypocrite." Aren't gardeners queer? You can classify them for yourself, according to their peculiarities. For instance there are givers and non-givers. The former give you everything, loading you down with dusty-miller, star-of-Bethlehem and buttercups that spread all over the place and you cannot refuse to take them. Then there is the other species who will never share a flower, a plant, a seed or a cake recipe. You view and admire her garden from over the fence, does it not spoil your faith in humanity to think there is that kind of gardener? Flowers were made to share, to love, to cherish, to fondle, to teach little children some of the great beauty of the world.

Gardeners are queer too in what they grow. Some want only big showy, spectacular masses of bloom, others are happy with a small plot of color, some want only a show garden, others cut freely and plant more without spoiling the picture. Some gardeners wear gloves, nets over their hair, soap under their fingernails, hats for their complexions, sun-glasses, sun-lotion, sun-jackets, others cuddle the earth in bare hands, kneel-as-to-pray while weeding and transplanting, revel in bare-headed breeze and sun, thrill to each tiny green nose that appears and rush out a dozen times each day to welcome each bloom as it unfolds. Yes, we all have our peculiarities, but taking us by and large, AREN'T WE GARDENERS NICE? Where will you find a group of people more friendly, generous and understanding, less high hat and affected, helpful and eager to learn HIS way of all growing things, for after all—the world began in a garden, didn't it?

The conspicuous broom-like bunching of twigs on the branches of the Hackberry is a deformity known as Witches Broom. Although the exact cause of the disease is unknown, a gall mite and a powdery mildew fungus are believed to be responsible. No effective control measures are known.

—MORTON ARBORETUM BULLETIN

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS—

(*Continued from page* 41)

eighteen inch wreath, using one hundred and twenty-five cellophane covered candy canes, and twenty-five hard red candies. These were tied with red yarn on a circle of wire webbing. Finished with a huge red bow and supplied with a small pair of scissors, so that the children could cut off pieces of candy as they wished, this was a nice bit of garden therapy. Decorations for the tree and the flower basket at the Hand County Hospital was another Christmas project. This club also made Christmas corsages and presented them to the teachers at a party in their honor, given by the women's club. Two work shop meetings were held during December, at the home of the president, Mrs. J. C. Hagin. The three Garden Clubs of Miller, in line with the Litterbug program, asked the City Council to provide rubbish containers for the main street. They have ordered four and the clubs are anxiously awaiting their arrival.

Mrs. C. W. McNeil, publicity chairman of the Home Garden Club, Britton, sent in this poem some time ago. It was used in their program booklet. Author unknown.

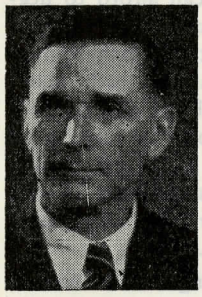
I bought a little cottage upon a sunny hill,
Where silent stars keep watch at night, and all the world is still.
But, oh, the lovely things I bought, and paid no price at all,
The valley where the daisies bloom, and the misty waterfall.
The splendor of the golden moon, sailing in a sea of blue,
The fragrance of the tall pine tree, sparkling with emerald dew,
The love song of the mourning dove, the night birds cherry call,
These are the lovely things I bought, and paid no price at all.

This page is being sent in earlier than usual this time (before February 20), so if your items are not in this time, they will be used in the next issue. I do appreciate your cooperation, and enjoy your letters. I wish that I might answer each one, but, I am a busy person, so, for the most part I shall have to communicate with you through "our page." Thanks for helping to make it interesting. Oh, I forgot to say why this goes in early—we are going on a short vacation. See you next issue.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by

F. X. WALLNER



Wallner

Friday, February 25th — We left Richland, Wash., at 1 p.m. for a trip to Twin Lakes in northern Idaho, on a clear, cool day. We thought we had everything, but at the first stop discovered we had forgotten the dog, so we went back to get him as we did not want to do all the barking ourselves, and were delayed in getting to Spokane. There we found some snow and very slippery streets, but we got to John's cabin, where we found plenty of deep snow and winter scenery. Three feet of snow had to be cleared off my cabin roof. The next morning we found another 16 inches of new snow, so the family is getting more winter scenery and experience than they expected.

Sunday morning icicles reaching from the roof to the ground, and still snowing; car covered completely with snow. Were thankful when we got out to the main highway, before noon, and back to Richland by early evening without mishap or chains and very little snow as we got south to the dry wheat district, where snow is so much needed.

Have been busy polishing and oiling a large block of wood that had a nice design of a goose in the heart wood. On my return to Kay Lou acres I have got 2 foot-long driftwood roots from a redwood stump. These I hope to use for legs for the table. The problem will be to get all this stuff back home.

March 25th—Back home the blizzards and cold seem to stay; here we had an all-night cold rain that brought all the pools up to brim-full and overflowing the dams. Xavier Lake, the last dam started 6 years ago but never filled, today is overflowing the top of the old moss covered log that makes this the deepest of all the pools.

Colored slides and pictures show the grounds are interesting even though there are few blooming plants now. I enjoyed an evening at a North and South Dakota meeting of former Dakotans, but no one I knew was present. The annual picnic is the big party of the Central States and they do have a big time.

I have fed more birds the past winter than in my lifetime, and I have the book and field glasses before me to try to identify them as best we can. The near failure of ripe tomatoes the past few seasons has growers worried and the trend is to earlier varieties, in the hope of getting some ripe fruit. Gill, one of the large seed houses here, is offering such varieties as Victor, Firesteel, Earliana and Chatham, for early sorts. Next Saturday and Sunday the Men's Garden Club will have a flower show; also the Camellia Society, in the same building, so I may have a report on these shows later. Those will be about my last days here before leaving for Richland and northern Idaho to the cabins. Blizzards and a cold wave back home; it just don't seem as I will be needed there in early April, for field plant setting.

HEMEROCALLIS NEWS

by

JUANITA JORGENSEN

S. D. Chairman American Hemerocallis Society

Jorgensen

Five national awards in one year for new hemerocallis originations is the record for Henry E. Sass and his family, world famous iris and hem growers of Omaha, Nebraska.

That these awards are not lightly bestowed is evidenced by the fact that the Stout Medal, highest award of the Hemerocallis Society, may be given only after a plant has been under observation a number of years and has won an Award of Merit at least three years previously.

REVOLUTE is the beautiful yellow hem to receive the Stout Award for 1953, and those who heard Mrs. Fern Irving's talk at the convention in 1952 will remember the lavish praise with which she spoke of it.

Almost as noteworthy as winning the Stout Medal is for one man to win two Awards of Merit in one year, but Mr. Sass's QUEEN ESTHER and MIDWEST MAJESTY both were given this prize; while PRAIRIE BOY had honorable mention; and ORANGE BEAUTY won first place in the Popularity Poll of 100 selections. The latter poll may be compared to the 100 best list in Iris, and are those hemerocallis which are well distributed among many gardeners and listed as their favorite hems, whether they be new or old originations. The Stout Medal on the other hand is selected by a committee of 150 judges living in all sections of the country.

The Lincoln Hemerocallis Society is having a meeting this month to honor Henry E. Sass for his remarkable contributions to the beauty of our gardens here in the midwest. There will be color slides of famous hemerocallis, and talks by Mrs. Carl Marcue, president of the American Hemerocallis Society and others.

Biggest event in the hemerocallis world is the annual meeting of the society at Baton Rouge May 16, 17, 18. The program features garden tours, special meetings, illustrated lectures and a barbecue, with talks by such famous leaders in the hemerocallis world as Prof. J. B. S. Norton, University of Maryland who has pioneered in the work of making hems which will bloom at night; Dr. Phillip Corliss, Somerton, Arizona, widely traveled expert who will tell how to use hems in flower arrangements; and our own Mrs. Gretchen Harshbarger, editor of Household Magazine. Mrs. Harshbarger will be the banquet speaker, at which time the Stout Medal for 1954 will be awarded.

If you wish to know more about the meetings, or wish to join the Society, write to Mrs. Daisy L. Ferrick, Secretary, 416 Arter Avenue, Topeka, Kansas, or to your South Dakota chairman.

Too many motorists seem to labor under the delusion that the function of their horn is to blow people out of their path.—W. EARL HALL

Domestic harmony is imperiled the minute somebody realizes he is being forced to play second fiddle.—W. EARL HALL

ARBOR DAY

by

MARVIN D. STRACHAN
Asst. State Forester

Arbor Day, a day set aside nationally as a day to plant trees, grew out of conditions peculiar to the Great Plains, an area practically treeless over much of its area but supporting a prospering agriculture and with a soil and climate well able to nourish tree growth. Arbor Day in the United States has become a symbol of our faith in the future.

In 1854 a young man from Detroit named J. Sterling Morton and his young bride migrated westward to Nebraska territory. Mr. and Mrs. Morton were lovers of nature and since the land was occupied only by Indians and described as a treeless prairie, the new home was soon adorned with trees, shrubs and flowers.

Being a journalist by profession, Morton became the editor of Nebraska's first newspaper and eagerly spread his tree planting convictions by means of editorials and articles. The pioneers read his writings and readily adopted his suggestions because trees were a real necessity in those days. Morton not only advocated tree planting by individuals, but urged schools, civic organizations and groups of every kind to take up the practice.

After becoming Secretary of the Nebraska territory and later a member of the State Board of Agriculture, Morton was able to stress the importance of the tree planting movement.

On January 4, 1872, Morton presented his Arbor Day resolution calling for an annual tree planting day to be known as "Arbor Day." Somewhat over a million trees were planted on that first day as a result.

In South Dakota, Arbor Day was first observed in April, 1886. Since the territorial Governor Pierces' first proclamation until World War II, tree planting festivities were observed on Arbor Day throughout South Dakota. The observance of Arbor Day broadened in scope with increasing interest in the wise use of our natural resources. The Horticultural Society, conservation groups, women's clubs, sportsmen's organizations, farmers and civic groups, as well as city and country schools and Scouting groups took part in its observation.

During World War II and the rehabilitation period thereafter, people have put the real meaning of Arbor Day aside. Only in isolated cases are the people of South Dakota planting trees on Arbor Day. There may never be another "Morton"; nevertheless, what the whole country needs is a revival of the Morton spirit, his foresight, his unselfish interest and concern in keeping ever alive not only the teaching of a love of trees, but the fundamental need for tree planting, whether it be shade or fruit trees, forest trees or windbreaks, or simply—conservation.

Last year a concentrated effort was made by several agencies of government and organizations to promote Arbor Day. It is evident that many schools and organizations did observe Arbor Day by planting trees. There is evidence that many will continue this year and there will be many who will make initial plantings of some kind on Arbor Day.

Arbor Day, as set by legislature, is the last Friday in April of every year, and this year Arbor Day falls on the 29th of April.

Arbor Day is a tree planting day. Yearly tree plantings have such a far-reaching effect on the community spirit that no community can afford to neglect them. If each and every school, each civic organization, each sportsmen's club, each farmer, each Scout troop, each 4-H club, young and old alike, would participate in some form of tree planting, a new and greater interest would be stimulated in our true appreciation for trees, tree planting and conservation.

People enjoy getting close to nature. For those people who cannot actually participate in tree planting on Arbor Day it is urged that they visit a city or state park, a state or national forest, a recognized South Dakota Tree Farm or any tree planting and partake in the beauty, advantages and the purpose for which it is intended.

The celebration of Arbor Day by the planting of trees is the assumption of an all-year-round responsibility. An essential part of the Arbor Day program is the assignment of later care of the trees to individuals or organizations. The assignment should be definite and the responsibility clearly defined. If the care is neglected, the fruits of the planting may be thrown away.

In the words of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day, "Other holidays repose upon the past—Arbor Day proposes for the future."

Arbor Day is everyday for everybody, everywhere.

Little girls count on their fingers; big girls count on their legs.—ARGUS-LEADER

SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. SIMMONS

Simmons

In sending in her annual dues, Mrs. Flora S. Kicken, who operate the large orchard at Ellsworth Neb., where the late "Old Jules" made his home, writes as follows: "We are replacing the house that was partly built as a store here in 1908, added to from time to time, remodeled and finally moved last spring to make room for a new house. The reason we had an opportunity to build is because there was an almost complete fruit failure and we had promised ourselves the first fruit failure would give us a chance to build. We thought we would move in before winter but haven't finished yet. The only thing I could write of this year is the house building. There were about a ton of cherries and I picked only enough for my preserves, and the birds harvested the rest. Some grapes and Juneberries completed the crop. There were very few chokecherries, so we could not put up many preserves for Christmas gifts though I did take time out to design a new box and used what fresh fruit that was available. Got some good comments on the boxes so am now planning that new plum patch I've planned for several years." Usually families in a hundred mile radius come to this orchard to obtain their fruit and I am sure theirs was the main disappointment over the fruit failure.

A letter from former president Mr. Geo. W. Gurney, written from Laguna Beach, Calif., says: "We left Yankton on Dec. 26th with Rev. Cannon and wife, and, of course, my wife. Rev. Cannon was forced to retire from the ministry due to a heart ailment, but regardless of that he is a very active man and good company. He lives in the lower apartment and we in the upper, where we get a wonderful view of city and ocean, which is about 4 blocks from us. This is an old peoples town, far away from Los Angeles and San Diego, and from the smog. Most of the town is built on hillside or mountains and they are so steep that the upper ones get a good ocean view over the neighbor's house. Large trees are scarce compared to the San Francisco area. They are not as important here due to climatic conditions, and would shut off the ocean view. There is an orange tree under our dining room window, loaded with fruit, both the 1954 and the coming '55 crop. The neighbor, who is a landscape man and a gardener, asked me to help myself, which I do. Planting has been going on here for a month, lots of roses. They prune the established roses back severely in January. Roses sold by the department stores are in good condition at this time but later, in many cases, dry out, but are sold, just the same. The nurserymen handle the bare root roses. They are better and sell for less. You would be surprised how many trees and plants nurseries have on one lot; lots of plants in all kinds of containers. With all the beautiful scenery, flowers and landscaping to see each day, I think I get a little more anxious to get home and get my yard and garden going, in a place where such things are appreciated. I saw Mr. Hi Beebe and wife at the S. D. picnic."

Senator Francis Case announces that Department of Agriculture bulletins and other publications are available through his office in Washington. A wide variety of publications dealing with all phases of agriculture, including home and garden bulletins, are available. Such subjects as home canning, growing fruit for home uses, growing annual flowering plants, ornamental hedges for the central plains and many others. Complete lists of publications available, can be obtained by writing the office of Senator Case, Room 325, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

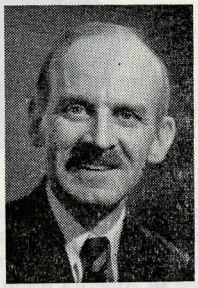
March 18th—The executive board of the Horticultural Society met in the office of Dr. McCrory, at State College today, the only absentee being Mr. Schamber, Mrs. Kindred and Mrs. Tompkins. It was decided to hold the annual meeting at Watertown on June 13, 14 and 15. A committee was appointed to meet with the State Federation of Garden Clubs at Huron on the following Sunday to consider the program for the meeting. Watertown is a very pleasant place for a meeting with its two good hotels, the Grand and the Lincoln.

LEAF CURL IN RASPBERRIES

by

PERCY H. WRIGHT

Sutherland, Sask., Canada



Wright

In the Eastern part of Canada the raspberry seems to be threatened by mosaic disease much more than by leaf curl; in any case, the bulletins published at Ottawa give considerable information about the susceptibility of the available varieties to mosaic, but give little similar information about leaf curl. Since leaf curl is the greater menace in western Canada, it is up to prairie fruit growers to compile their own data.

The descriptions made below have been collected, partly by personal observation, and partly with the aid of remarks made by various horticulturists on the experimental farms from time to time. The biggest contribution, however, was made by Mr. A. J. Porter of Parkside, Sask., originator of Honeyking and other raspberry varieties now attracting attention.

Newburg: Probably the most resistant of all. Since it is also high on the list of varieties resistant to mosaic, we have two strong talking points.

Ottawa: High on the list of those resistant.

Tahoma: Also high on the list.

Viking, Honeyking, and Rideau: All these are comparatively high in resistance. Chief, Latham, and Muskoka are at least intermediate on the list.

Very susceptible varieties include Starlight, Gatineau, Herbert, Yellow Queen, Taylor, Washington. I have no information on Madawaska, but as leaf curl has never appeared in this variety on my place, it is apparently not in the very susceptible class.

The reader will appreciate the fact that it takes many years to collect reliable data on such a matter, for no one deliberately exposes a plantation to disease, even though he may want the information very badly. This means that information is obtained accidentally, and against the efforts of the gardener to prevent the spread of the disease.

The varieties that are in the sus-

ceptible list are not necessarily to be eliminated. Growers who have plantations alongside the bush, which usually harbors wild raspberries that may carry the disease, are in particular danger if they choose the susceptible varieties. However, those who grow raspberries out on the prairies, well away from this natural source of infection, may choose a susceptible variety and see it remain free of this disease for a lifetime. I have not heard of an authentic case of mosaic disease having been acquired from wild raspberries in the prairie provinces, though of course they may do so. If prairie wild raspberries are really comparatively free of mosaic, it is a lucky circumstance for prairie folk, for leaf curl makes much more easily recognized symptoms than mosaic, and hence is much easier to eradicate.

NEWSLANTS—

(*Continued from page* 35)

crop beans; Lincoln peas, and Coreless carrots.

You will be hearing from the executive committee of your Horticultural Society, sooner or later. Please read this communication over carefully. If you are in a position to help—anything you do will be greatly appreciated. We surely should have twice as many members. President Jensen says we should have at least three times as many.

The Red River Valley gladiolus fanciers are scheduled to organize themselves into a Society on April 14. Membership will be open to glad fans in Western Minnesota and North Dakota. This Society plans to affiliate with the North American Gladiolus Council. For further information, contact L. E. Boddy of Grand Forks.

Einar Olstad of Sentinal Butte, North Dakota, passed away in March. Einar was nationally famous for his western scenes. Born in Norway, he came to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, when a year old in 1879; and lived there until 1919 when he located in the Badlands area of North Dakota between Sentinal Butte and Medora. When the depression came along, he found time for seriously developing the hobby of painting in which he had been interested for a good long time. When past 60, he went to Milwaukee where he studied art under John Stuart Curry. In addition to painting, Einar Olstad has done many beautiful works of art in iron. His horse and riders done in iron on the gateway to Theodore Roosevelt National Park near Medora are famous. North Dakota has lost another famous and leading citizen.

An immigrant received in the mail an income-tax blank. After studying the spaces for name, address, and other personal facts, he replied: "Already belong to several good organizations, and don't care to join your income tax at this time."—SUCCESSFUL FARMING

Save the wildflowers. We are the guardians of these God-given treasures. Let us enjoy them in their natural places, that they may live out their lives and reproduce themselves as the Great Gardener intended—THRU THE GARDEN GATE, *Michigan.*

City Lady: "I would like to buy a chicken to take back home with me."

Farmer: "Want a pullet?"

City Lady: "Of course not, I'll take it back with me in this car."

—SUCCESSFUL FARMING